

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing control information in a communication system comprising the steps of:
  - 5 providing a first control channel communicating a first set of control information to at least one component within the communication system; and
  - providing a second control channel selectively communicating a second set of control information to the at least one component within the communication system based on the first set of control information.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - transmitting data on a data channel to the at least one component; and
  - wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control
- 15 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the first set of control information further includes dedicated control information.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the dedicated control information includes at least one of power control information and reverse link scheduling information.
5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the first set of control information includes at least one of a starting Walsh code assignment of the data channel, information concerning the modulation type of the data channel, a coding rate and message sequence length.
- 10 6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the second control channel is a shared control channel selected from a plurality of pooled shared control channels based on the indicator value.
- 15 7. The method according to claim 2, wherein the second set of control information includes at least one of information for demodulating information transmitted on the data channel, gain information, and ARQ information.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the communication system is a code division multiple access system.
- 20 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the first and second control channels are part of a forward link in the code division multiple access system.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information on the second control channel is not transmitted to the at least one component.

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11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting data on a data channel to the at least one component; and  
wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that

10 is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information on the second control channel is transmitted to the at least one component, to identify the second control channel and to indicate that data on the data channel is not transmitted to the at least one component.

15 12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting data on a data channel to the at least one component; and  
wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information on the second control channel is not transmitted to the at least one component and data on the data channel is not transmitted to the at least one component.

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13. An apparatus for providing control information in a communication system comprising:

5 a first control channel transmitter configured for transmitting a first set of control information to at least one component within the communication system;

10 and

15 a second control channel transmitter configured for selectively transmitting a second set of control information to the at least one component within the communication system based on the first set of control information.

10 14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information is transmitted to the at least one component and to identify the second control channel.

15 15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first set of control information further includes dedicated control information.

16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the dedicated control information includes at least one of power control information and reverse link scheduling information.

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17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the second control channel is a shared control channel selected from a plurality of pooled shared control channels based on the indicator value.

5 18. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a data channel transmitter configured for transmitting data over a data channel to the at least one component; and  
wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control

10 information on the second control channel is transmitted to the at least one component, to identify the second control channel and to indicate that data on the data channel is transmitted to the at least one component.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the first set of control information includes at least one of a starting Walsh code assignment of the data channel, information concerning the modulation type of the data channel, a coding rate and message sequence length.

20. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the second set of control information includes at least one of information for demodulating information transmitted on the data channel, gain information, and ARQ information.

21. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the communication system is a code division multiple access system.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first and second control channels are within a forward link transmitting portion of the code division multiple access system.

23. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first control channel transmitter is comprised of an input configured to receive control data; an encoder connected to the input for encoding control data, an interleaver for interleaving the encoded control data; a modulator for modulating the interleaved encoded control data according to a prescribed modulation scheme and outputting modulated control data; a multiplexer for multiplexing the modulated control data with at least power control information, the multiplexer outputting multiplexed control data; and a multiplier for multiplying a Walsh number with the multiplexed control data.

24. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the second control transmitter is comprised of an input configured to receive control data; an encoder connected to the input for encoding control data, an interleaver for interleaving the encoded control data; a modulator for modulating the interleaved encoded control data according to a prescribed modulation scheme and outputting modulated control data; and a multiplier for multiplying a Walsh number with the modulated control data.

25. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information on the second control channel is not transmitted to the at least one component.

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26. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

10 a data channel transmitter configured for transmitting data over a data channel to the at least one component; and

10 wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information on the second control channel is transmitted to the at least one component, to identify the second control channel and to indicate that data on the data channel is not transmitted to the at least one component.

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27. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

15 a data channel transmitter configured for transmitting data over a data channel to the at least one component; and

20 wherein the first set of control information includes an indicator value that is used by the communication system to indicate that the second set of control information on the second control channel is not transmitted to the at least one component and data on the data channel is not transmitted to the at least one component